



# The Poodle Club of America, Inc.

## Congratulates you on your new Poodle Puppy!

### *The Poodle*

*That of a very active, intelligent and elegant-appearing dog, squarely built, well proportioned, moving soundly and carrying himself proudly. Properly clipped in the traditional fashion and carefully groomed, the Poodle has about him an air of distinction and dignity peculiar to himself.*

(Taken from The Official AKC Poodle Breed Standard)

### **Varieties of Poodles**

There are three varieties of Poodles: Toy, Miniature, and Standard. Terms such as a "Royal Standard," "Tea Cup Toy," or "Tiny Toy Poodle" are marketing gimmicks, used to promote the sale of animals that are dramatically over or under the norm in size.

*Toy Poodle:* The toy is the smallest variety and should be no larger than 10" high at the shoulder. This size is particularly well-suited to apartment life or as a traveling companion for retired people.

*Miniature Poodle:* The Miniature Poodle is a medium-sized animal standing between 10" and 15" high at the shoulder. This variety is a sturdy compromise between the Toy and the Standard, suitable for both apartment life or the hardy lifestyle of a family with children.

*Standard Poodle:* The Standard is the largest of the three varieties, with no upper height limit. Standards typically mature to a height of 21" to 27" at the shoulder, and females are usually a little smaller than males. Being a larger, more substantial animal, the Standard usually needs more room for exercise than the other two varieties.

### **Show Quality versus Pet Quality Puppies**

A show quality puppy is one which, in the breeder's opinion, should be able to become a champion. A pet quality puppy is less likely, in the breeder's estimation, to succeed in the show ring. However, making such a prediction at 8 to 16 weeks of age (the age when puppies typically are sold) involves guesswork and is not a sure thing.

A "pet quality" puppy is one that has a disqualifying or major "fault" under AKC rules and/or the standard for the breed, such as being smaller or larger than the limits for its variety (Toy or Miniature). However, if a "pet quality" Poodle puppy meets the standard of the breed for temperament, such a "fault" in no way affects the puppy's ability to be a wonderful companion or its eligibility to enter AKC Companion Events, such as Agility or Obedience Trials.

### **Grooming**

Your new puppy has been delivered to you freshly bathed; toe nails trimmed; hair in the ear canal has been removed, and ears are fresh and clean smelling; face, feet and tail have been shaved; and the body coat is scissored to a pleasing shape.

Now, all you have to do is learn the basics of coat care. Prior to being bathed, your puppy should be brushed out thoroughly. Ideally, the puppy should be bathed (using a mild puppy shampoo) at least twice a month. Care must be taken not to allow any soap in the puppy's eyes or water in its ears. Blow dry your Poodle under low heat from your hair dryer, using the brush while blowing dry. If you have a Standard puppy, you may wish to purchase an electric dog dryer.

It's better to use a pin brush, rather than a wire slicker, which is meant for badly tangled coats and will pull out hair. It is a good idea to brush your puppy every other day or so, which will ensure that you never have to worry about its coat becoming tangled and matted. If this does happen to your new Poodle, the coat may have to be shaved completely, something you want to avoid.

If you don't want to bathe your puppy at home, it may be done by a professional groomer in a grooming shop. It is not wise to expose your puppy to the grooming shop until after 16 weeks, when shots for parvo and distemper will be fully up to date.

Clipping and scissoring should be left to the professional at the start; however, many people learn to do their own trimming in time and enjoy the challenge.

Ears should be cleaned weekly. Gently pull the long hairs out of the ear canal regularly, and swab the ear canal with your finger wrapped in cotton moistened with ear cleaner recommended by your vet or groomer. If the puppy is scratching its ears or the ears have a bad odor, see your vet immediately.

Toenails must be clipped every week or two. This is very important. By doing the nails regularly the puppy will become used to it. Take off only the tip ends of the nail, as you do not wish to cut into the "Quick," which will hurt and bleed.

Whatever you do in terms of grooming, do not frighten the puppy or make it nervous about grooming. Teach it to lie quietly as it is being brushed, and rely on treats to make it an enjoyable experience.

Remember, because Poodles do not shed, they make a perfect breed for people with allergies and asthma. They may require more maintenance than some other breeds but are well worth the effort. Never be afraid to ask questions of your breeder, veterinarian, or groomer.

### **Obedience Training**

Basic obedience is necessary for all dogs. Poodles are very intelligent and easily trained to do a number of things. Some of the activities that Poodles enjoy are tracking, hunting, agility, and obedience. Local nonprofit kennel clubs, obedience clubs, agility clubs, tracking clubs, retriever clubs and commercial training schools offer classes to teach you how to train your Poodle.

### **Crate Training**

A crate is not a jail: it is the safest place the puppy can be to learn to be housebroken, have its meals, sleep at night, ride in the car, and stay in hotels and motels. It will become its own portable "Den." The nature of a dog is not to foul its *Nest*. This means that until you have instilled in the puppy an idea of housebreaking, a healthy puppy will not go against its natural instincts.

Have a crate the size that will fit the puppy comfortably, large enough so that the puppy may stand up, turn around, and has enough space to lie down with ease. You may have to get a larger crate as the puppy grows. If the puppy is going to be large, do not buy a huge crate to begin with. It will give the puppy ideas of being able to use a portion of it as a restroom, something you do not want to happen.

Start the puppy off in its crate the first night. Make sure the puppy has not had water after 4p.m., that the puppy has had its supper, and has been given a chance to relieve itself just before you go to bed. Put the crate with a towel in it next to your bed. Put the puppy in the crate with a puppy biscuit, always reward for entering the crate, and settle down for the night.

If the puppy has other ideas, do not give in. Do not take the puppy on the bed or allow the puppy to run free in the bedroom. The first couple of nights are the most important to both you and the puppy. Training is a matter of patience and time.

Always travel with the puppy in its crate; it is the only safe way.

Always reward for correct behavior, even if its only a small cracker. Carry some in your pocket for any occasion such as crating, performance of housebreaking duties, and coming when called. The opportunities are boundless and will be a shortcut to training your puppy quickly and happily.

## Spay/Neuter

The Poodle Club of America recommends that you spay or neuter your pet Poodle. Responsible breeders sell their Poodles with a spay/neuter agreement and with AKC's limited Registration option, which says that although your pet is an AKC-registered purebred dog, it cannot be bred. If it is bred, the offspring cannot be registered with the American Kennel Club. Using this form is the breeder's way of ensuring that the puppy will not be bred and pass along the disqualifying feature to future generations. Spaying or neutering your dog also increases its chances of leading a longer, healthier, and happier life. Spayed females will have reduced incidence of mammary tumors. Neutering a male will reduce the chance of prostate problems. *Please Note: There is no scientific evidence that it is helpful for a bitch to have a first season or have a litter of puppies.*



## Veterinarian

When you get your Poodle puppy, take it to the vets office for a Well Puppy Check Up. This will ensure that its shots and worming are up to date. In addition, your vet will check your puppy's heart, ears, etc., so that you can be assured that every thing is as it should be.

## Health Issues: Genetic Testing, Diagnosis & Certification

Animal health is an important consideration, both at the time of purchase and long-term. Genetically inherited disorders (some of which do not manifest themselves for several years) are present in virtually every living creature and Poodles, unfortunately, are no exception.

All three varieties of Poodles have been diagnosed with hip dysplasia, progressive retinal atrophy, cataracts, idiopathic epilepsy, sebaceous adenitis, von Willebrand's disease, and immune-mediated disorders, including disorders of the thyroid and adrenal glands. Other disorders that may have a genetic basis also occur, as they do in other breeds of dogs.

Two orthopedic problems, Legg-Perthes and luxating patellas, are more likely to occur in Toy and Miniature Poodles than in Standards. The Standard variety is more likely to experience gastric dilatation with volvulus ("bloat") and sebaceous adenitis. Standards also can experience Auto Immune Disorders such as Addison's disease or Auto-immune Hemolytic Anemia. It should be kept in mind, however, that any of these disorders may be seen in any Poodle variety.

### Hip Dysplasia

*Description:* Hip dysplasia is a malformation of the hip joint that may lead to painful arthritic changes. Severe hip dysplasia may cause significant chronic pain and limit mobility. *Method of Diagnosis:* Radiography (x-ray). *Certification:* Radiographic hip evaluations made by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), PennHIP, and the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) are acceptable for registration with the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC).

### Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA)

*Description:* PRA is a general term referring to conditions that cause a deterioration of the retina of the eye, leading to blindness. At least two types of PRA have been diagnosed in Poodles. *Method of Diagnosis:* Clinical PRA is diagnosed by an ophthalmoscopic examination by a veterinary ophthalmologist. There is also a one-time genetic test for prcd-PRA, the progressive rod-cone degeneration form of PRA, available from OptiGen. *Certification:* Results of the one-time OptiGen DNA test for prcd-PRA may be registered with OFA. Results of annual examinations for clinical prcd-PRA and other eye conditions, if performed by a member of the Association of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO), may be registered with the Canine Eye Registry Foundation (CERF).

### Type I von Willebrand's Disease (vWD)

*Description:* von Willebrand's Disease is a general term referring to several types of inherited disorders that affect blood clotting. Type I is the form of vWD seen in Poodles. *Method of Diagnosis:* There is a one-time DNA test for Type I vWD available from VetGen. the older agglutination blood test for Type I vWD is now considered obsolete. *Certification:* Results of the one-time VetGen DNA test for Type I von Willebrand's disease may be registered with OFA.

### Thyroid Disorders

*Description:* Canines, including Poodles, may suffer from an under-active thyroid gland (hypothyroidism) or, less commonly, an over-active thyroid gland (hyperthyroidism). Autoimmune thyroiditis, which leads to a form of hypothyroidism, is thought to have a genetic component. *Method of Diagnosis:* Blood tests are used to diagnose all forms of hypo- and hyper- thyroidism. *Certification:* Results of certain thyroid-function blood tests performed by approved laboratories may be registered with OFA.

### Patellar Luxation (Slipped Stiffles)

*Description:* In patellar luxation, the "kneecap" moves from its normal position, causing continuous or intermittent lameness. In medial luxation, the patella is displaced vertically; in lateral luxation, it is displaced horizontally. Signs of patellar luxation may include a "pigeon-toed" stance and/or a hopping or "skipping" gait, depending on the type of luxation and its grade of severity. Patellar luxation may affect one or both hind legs. *Method of Diagnosis:* Examination by a veterinarian. *Certification:* Results of examination by a veterinarian may be registered with OFA.

### Legg-Calve-Perthes Disease (LCP)

*Description:* LCP is a malformation of the hip joint that occurs when the blood supply to the head of the femur is interrupted, causing death of bone cells. Most often seen in miniature and toy breeds between the ages of 4 and 12 months. LCP causes pain and stiffness in the affected joint. *Method of Diagnosis:* Radiograph (x-ray) *Certification:* Radiographs may be evaluated and registered with OFA.

### Addison's Disease

*Description:* Addison's disease (primary hypoadrenocorticism) is an immune-mediated disease leading to atrophy of the adrenal glands. Addison's disease (AD) is thought to have a strong genetic component in several breeds and may be under-diagnosed in Poodles, particularly the Standard variety. Clinical signs of AD may include depression, lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, weakness, shivering and/or collapse. Milder signs may resolve on their own, only to recur at a later time. Untreated AD may lead to adrenal crisis, an acute medical emergency that can result in death. *Method of Diagnosis:* Although blood testing for sodium/potassium ratio has been used as a screening test, it is not diagnostic for dogs that are not in crisis when tested. The ACTH-stimulation test, a two-step blood test, is used to diagnose AD in dogs that are not in crisis. *Certification:* None available.

### Sebaceous Adenitis (SA)

*Description:* SA is an immune-mediated skin disorder involving destruction of the sebaceous glands and thought to have a strong genetic component. Clinical signs of SA include hair loss and skin flakes that tend to adhere to hair shafts. Hair loss may be sudden and extensive, while flaking skin may lead to secondary fungal or bacterial infections, with resultant itching and/or a musty odor. Clinical symptoms may wax and wane over months or years, and it is possible for clinically affected Poodles to re-grow normal coats, with or without treatment. There is a subclinical form of the disease in which affected Poodles show no outward signs of SA. *Method of Diagnosis:* Skin punch-biopsy read by a qualified veterinary dermatopathologist. *Certification:* Biopsy reports by an approved dermatopathologist may be registered with OFA.

### Gastric Dilatation with Volvulus (GDV or "bloat")

*Description:* In GDV, the stomach rotates from its normal position, cutting off blood supply to other vital organs. Early signs may include restlessness, an arched back, unproductive retching or a seeming inability to find a comfortable position. *GDV should always be considered a veterinary emergency and early treatment is often essential to the dog's survival.* A peer-reviewed prospective 5-year study found risk of GDV increases with age and that GDV is more likely to occur among individuals with a parent, sibling or offspring that has had GDV. *Method of Diagnosis:* Radiograph (x-ray) *Certification:* None available.

### Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)

*Description:* ASD is a congenital heart defect in which the wall between the right and left atrium fails to close completely, causing abnormal blood flow within the heart. *Method of Diagnosis:* Echocardiogram performed by a veterinary cardiologist. *Certification:* Results of an echocardiogram may be registered with OFA.

## Responsible Owners

The Poodle Club of America urges that if ever the day comes when you cannot care for your Poodle for whatever reason, you contact your Poodle's breeder. If you are unable to contact the breeder, there is a national rescue organization set up within the Poodle Club of America that can put you in contact with someone in your area who will help you with your Poodle. **Our goal is that no Poodle will have to go to an animal shelter. Rescue Email: [poodleclubofamerica@yahoo.com](mailto:poodleclubofamerica@yahoo.com)**

The AKC always has the name and number of the current contact for Rescue for the Poodle Club of America—American Kennel Club, 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27617-3390, [info@akc.org](mailto:info@akc.org)

## The Poodle Club of America

The Poodle Club of America (PCA) is the parent club for the breed. PCA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of the Poodle. For more information and related reading materials on the Poodle, please visit our web site:

[www.poodleclubofamerica.org](http://www.poodleclubofamerica.org)

General email: [infopoodleclubofamerica@yahoo.com](mailto:infopoodleclubofamerica@yahoo.com)